

IN THE CLAIMS

B/ Claim 1. (Currently amended) A process for manufacturing an absorbent dryformed paper web with at least one center layer containing a superabsorbent material comprising:

laying a web of cellulose fibers, admixed with thermobonding fibers, onto a forming wire, wherein the thermobonding fibers comprise about 3 - 25 wt% of the total fiber content;

applying a binder, wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5 - 15 wt% and the amount of dry matter applied to the surface of the web is from about 0.5 - ~~40~~20 g. of dry matter per square meter of web surface; and

heating the web to a temperature sufficient to melt the thermobonding fibers and increase the tensile strength of the finished product.

2. (Previously amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the amount of dry matter in the binder is from about 0.5 - 15 wt%.

Claim 3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder is applied in an amount of

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about 0.5 - 10 grams dry matter per square meter of web surface.

Claim 4. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder is an aqueous binder.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein a superabsorbent material is homogeneously distributed in the web.

Claim 7. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the binder contains pigments admixed therewith.

Claim 8. (Previously amended) The process according to claim 2 wherein said web comprises about 10 - 25 wt% thermobonding fibers and the amount of binder applied to the surface of the web is about 0.5 - 10 grams per square meter of web surface.

Claim 9. (Previously amended) The process according to claim 2 wherein said web comprises about 3 - 7 wt% of thermobonding fibers and the amount of binder

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applied to the surface of the web is about 5 - 20 grams
per square meter of web surface.

Claims 10-22. (Withdrawn)
